

# Chimney Swift Bios

Short:

Chimney Swift is a groovy, eclectic band featuring Avalon Zoë Madonna on accordion, Cecile Leroy on cello, Daniel Raine on cittern, guitar, and ukulele, and Yaron Shragai on recorders, whistles and percussion. Their tunes and arrangements draw inspiration from many sources, ranging from traditional contra to jazz and various international styles. Chimney Swift's unusual instrumentation and innovative musical choices give them an exciting and unique sound.

Long:

Chimney Swift is a groovy, eclectic band based in the Boston area, known for their unusual instrumentation and innovative musical choices. The band hatched out of a fortuitous Youth Dance Weekend rideshare in 2015 when Cecile, a classically trained cellist, and Avalon Zoë, a self-taught accordionist, ended up in a car for three hours together, started jamming regularly, and decided to take their show on the road. With the addition of Daniel, a former teenage prog rock fan who had recently fallen in love with the hearty sound of the cittern, and Yaron, a versatile international music and dance leader with a well-spent youth in industrial and techno, the band has developed an exciting and unique sound.

Chimney Swift has been active on the scene since 2016 and has enjoyed the chance to play for dances in a range of settings including big dances, tiny dances, outdoor dances, dance weekends, a science fiction convention, folk festivals, techno contras, and a wedding. Their tunes and arrangements draw inspiration from Anglo-American dance tunes, various international styles, and whatever off the wall idea someone mentioned as a joke in practice last week.

# Individual Bios

## **A.Z. Madonna** (accordion, vocals)

A.Z. began as a pianist, then fell in love with the rich sound and portability of the accordion. She is involved with a variety of musical projects and especially enjoys playing Bal Folk, Scandinavian, and video game music.

## **Cecile Leroy** (cello, jaw harp, vocals)

Cecile was originally a classical cellist and more recently discovered the collaborative joys of folk music. She draws inspiration from many styles and is an active musician in the Contra and English Country Dance communities.

## **Daniel Raine** (cittern, guitar, ukulele, banjo, vocals)

Daniel is a versatile instrumentalist playing a variety of strummed instruments. His early expertise was in prog rock and fingerstyle guitar, and his current interests include Bluegrass, Irish, Scandinavian, and many more.

## **Yaron Shragai** (recorders, whistles, hand percussion, vocals)

Yaron is adept at a wide range of styles and uses them in his innovative approach to traditional tunes. He has a background in industrial and techno and is active in the International Folk Dance scene as both musician and dance leader.